New Classics Course—Spring 2011
No Greek or Latin Required

CLAS 350
ANCIENT ROMANS ON THE GOOD LIFE
MWF 1:10-2:00pm

Professor Joseph O’Connor
Department of Greek and Latin

What does it mean to live our lives well? This is a question that Romans of the classical world considered fundamental for everyone, regardless of status or prospects in life. A body of literature—essays, dialogues, letters, comedy of manners and satire—arose to address this issue. Characteristically, Romans focused on human experience as authoritative and taught through examples of both good and bad behavior what attitudes and actions conduce to a successful and satisfying life. This course will read and consider major works by Plautus, Terence, Cicero, Horace and Seneca around the theme of the good life.
CLAS 350  Ancient Romans on the Good Life

Readings:

Plautus  Aulularia (Pot of Gold)
         Mostellaria (Haunted House)
         Miles Gloriosus (Braggart Soldier)
         Menaechmi (Brothers Menaechmus)

Terence  Hecyra (Mother-in-Law)
         Heautontimoroumenos (Self-Tormentor)
         Adelphi (Brothers)

Cicero   De amicitia (Friendship)
         De officiis 2 (Obligations)
         De oratore 1 (Leadership)
         Tusculan Disputations 5 (Youth Wants to Know)

Horace  Satires
        Letters to Friends

Seneca  De tranquillitate animi (Peace of Mind)
        De brevitate vitae (Life is Short)
        Letters to Friends